

10-22-1854

Letter to Brother and Sisters from Isaac Smith

Isaac Smith

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spring that crops aint hardly as good as usual
so the old settlers say, there is plenty raised here
so there is no need of sending to the states for
any thing park not excepted.

people are very buisy here a seedling, I have
ten acres of wheat sowed and up ^{to sow} I want
4 more, I have 5 acres broke up for outz.
I killed a panther the other day one of our
neighbors dogs tredd it close to my house
there is a good many in this country I seldom
ever hear of them doing any mischief, I have
not heard of them attacking any person
big or little. — if you have any of my
money I want you to pay for the Atlas one
more year, not that I like the ^{per} so well
but because I can hear regular about the
thing that are going on a haunt Monmouth
dont forget the post office (Bridge port)
dont forget to pay your self for all the tro-
uble you have bin at for me, and finally
dont forget to write often to your old
father it does him a great deal of good to get a letter
from any of you, he seldom fails going to the
post office the day the mail come in from the
states that every two weeks, you must
write to me as often as you can.

your loving brother Isaac Smith

Bridge port Oct the 22 1854

Dear Brother or Sisters

It has bin some time
since I wrote to any of you, it was ^{nothing}
because I had forgotten you. The reason is I had
to write that I thought would interest you.
we are all well at present. as fare as health
is concerned Berrymans leg is not well yet there
is a running sore on it and no prospect of it get-
ting better he dont complain of it hurting him
any he runs round all the time as though it
wasnt sore. The connexion are all well as fare
as I know I understood that Isaac Margaret was
sick but getting better, your Father or Mother stay-
ed all night here a short time since, your Father
has had a hard spell of the tooth ache, but has got
well your Mother is some home sick. —
I received the drafts you sent me and got the
money with out any trouble, wouldnt care
if you wot send me such presents every Mail.
I had to go to Portland to draw the Money it was
the first time that I ever was there it is quite
a different place it is near the side of Burl-
ington its a very pretty place for a town goods
as general thing sell a haunt like they did in Mon-
mouth when we left, thing that are Bulky and
groceries are very high I paid for sugar coman

article 10cts per pound coffee 20 Nails & Irons -
the country back of Portland, and up the river for
20 miles broken and very heavy timber, the
timber is better than you could imagine timber
to be, it is mostly fir some Hemlock & cedar
it is not all claimed, the soil is very good
and they have the finest vegetables I ever saw
it is not as big a job to clear land here as
one mile square, they do the most of it
with fire they can burn up the green timber
roots and all. —

I was sorry when I heard you had sold my land
from the fact that business is so unsettled
that I do not know what to invest in
I shall be afraid to loan it or lay it
out for stock or land prices of every thing
is very changeable and money scarce, the
scarcity of money is the main cause of our hard
times, the fact of the matter is this the money
is sent to the states to buy goods & groceries
farming utensils stock of all kinds pork
Butter &c when the people of Oregon learn to
work more and buy less money will be
plenty, stock as a general thing is about
half what it was last fall good cows is worth
about 50 dollars each beef 6 to 7 cts on foot
hogs 8 cts gross, wheat \$1.00 per bushel. —
Wm Murphy got in in good time and had good
luck they did not lose but one cow I believe

I bought a cow and heifer of Meril I paid him
\$50.00 Bob Haglin sold the heifers that he got
Williams for \$42.00, the boys are both gone to
the mines. — Talvin Wallace was to see
us a short time since he took a claim last
winter and swapped it for a nother lately he got
3 yoke of oxen and one horse to boot he says he
still has a pretty good claim ~~yet~~ he is near his
brokers about 80 miles above here, him and
some of the other boys that came through
with us took a job last winter of chopping
wood and making rails they had to camp
out he says he took at that time a diarr and
has not felt well since he thinks he is getting
better now, the rest of the boys are in the mi-
nes I believe I do not know what there are
doing Jorge Bruner died out there, I am infor-
med that he killed himself a drinking. —
this is court week I am on the grand jury I am also
summons as a witness grand jury men get \$4.00
per day witnesses \$1.50 this is good wages but
no difference Uncle Sam has to foot the bill,
I was on the pet jury last court so you can
see that I am of the Behays of Oregon, —
it has been raining off and on for two days and
nights its hardly time for the wet season to
set in yet, it has been about as reasonable
here this summer as it is in Illinois of a
dry season, but it was cool and cloudy last

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to Brother and Sister from Isaac Smith (Bridgeport)

Date: October 22, 1854

Transcription:

Bridgeport Oct the 22 1854

Dear Brother & Sister

It has bin some time since I wrote to any of you, it was not because I had forgotten you the reson is I had nothing to write that I thought wold interest you - we are all well at presant as fare as health is concerned Berrymans leg is not well yet thare is a runing sore on it and no prospect of it geting better he dont complain of it hurting him any he runs round all the time as though it wasnt sore the connexion are all well as fare as I know I understood that Iras Margaret was sick but geting better, your Father & Mother styed all night heare a short time since your Father has had a hard spell of the tooth ache, but has got well your Mother is some home sick - I received the drafts you sent me and got the money with out any trouble wouldnt care if you wold send me such presants every mail I had to go to Portland to draw the money it was the first time that I ever was thare it is qite a buissness place it is neare the size of Burlington its a verry pirty place for a town goods as general thing sell about like thay did in Monmouth when we left thing that are bulky and grocerizes are very high I paid for sugar coman article 10 cts per pound coffee 20 nails 8 iron 8 the country back of Portland, and up the river for 20 miles is broken and very heavey timber, the timber is better than you could immagine timber to be it is mostly fir some hemlock & seder it is not all claimed the soil is verry good and thay have the finest vegetables I ever saw it is not as big a job to clear land heare as one mite supose, thay do the most of it with fire thay can burn up the green timber roots and all.

I was sorry when I heard you had sold my land from the fact that buissness is so unsettled that I do not know what to invest it in I shall be afraid to loane it or lay it out fore stock or land prices of evry thing is very changeable and money scarce, the scarcity of money is the main cause of our hard times, the fact of the matter is this the money is sent to the states to buy goods & grcercys farming materials stock of all kinds pork butter & when the people of Oregon learn to work more and buy less money will be plenty, stock as a general thing is about half what it was

last fall good cows is worth about 50 dollars each beef 6 to 7 cts on foot hogs 8 cts gross, wheat \$1.00 per bushel

Wm Murphy got in good time and had good luck that did not loose but one cow I believe I bought a cow and heifer of Meril I paid him \$50.00 Bob Raglin sold the heifers that he got Williams for \$42.00, the boys are both gone to the mines. - Calvin Wallace was to see us short time since he took a claime last winter and swaped it for another lately he got 3 yoke of oxen and one horse to boot he says he still has a pirty good claime he is neare his brothers about 80 miles above heare, him and some of the other boys that came through with us took a job last winter of chopping wood and making rails thay had to camp out he says he took at that time a diare and has not felt well since he thinks he is geting better now, the rest of the boys are in the mines I believe I do not know what thare are doing Jorge Bruner died out thare, I am informed that he killed himself a drinking.

this is cort week I am on the grand jury I am also summonsd as a witness grand jury men get \$4.00 per day witnesses \$1.50 this is good wages but no difference Uncle Sam has to foot the bill I was on the pet jury last cort so you can see that I am of the Behays of Oregon.

it has bin raining off and on for two days and knights its hardly time for the wet season to set in yet it has bin about as seasonable heare this sumer as it is in Illinois of dry season, but it was cool and cloudy last spring that crops aint hardly as good as usial so the old setlers say, thare is plenty raised heare so thare is no need of sending to the states for anything pork not excepted. people are very buisy heare a seeding, I have ten acres of wheat sowed and up I want to sow 4 more I have 5 acres broke up for oats. I killed a panther the other day one of our neighbors dogs treed it close to my house thare is a good many in this country I seldom ever heare of them doing any mischief, I have not heard of them attacking any person big or little. - if you have any of my money I want you to pay for the atlas one more yeare, not that I like the paper so well but because I can heare regular about the thing that are going on about Monmouth dont forget the post office (Bridgeport) dont forget to pay yourself for all the trouble you have bin at for me, and finally dont forget to write often to your old Father it does him a great eal of good to get a letter from any of you, he seldom fails going to the post office the day the mail come in from the states thats every two weeks, you must write to me as often as you can.

Your loving brother

Isaac Smith